



MATWATCH

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JAN. 6-12

Luger Gives Notice

ATLANTA--WCW world heavyweight champion Lex Luger, confirming subtle speculation over the last month, has been granted a mutual release from the promotion, effective with the Feb. 29 SUPERBRAWL special.

Luger, reportedly not happy in general since winning the WCW title in a playoff against Barry Windham last July in Baltimore, will be off most of the next two months and--barring a late change--will drop the belt to his close friend Steve (Sting) Borden in Milwaukee.

Friday, WCW president Jack Petrik confirmed the agreement. "This is on a desire of Lex," said Petrik. "He came to us and just said he was burned out. So, we negotiated a rest period."

Luger, whose WCW contract runs through March 1993, will not be allowed to compete for a rival wrestling organization for the duration, according to the terms. "If he desires to wrestle during that time," said Petrik, "we would want to have him back."

But as of deadline, reports had Luger considering a move to Titan Sports' World Bodybuilding Federation, which a Titan source is denying. Titan spokesman Steve Planamenta was not available for comment. As to whether the agreement would free Luger to work for the non-wrestling WBF, Petrik said: "I don't know. It hasn't come up. We'll cross that bridge when if we come to it." But another WCW insider said Friday night he fully expects Luger to join the muscle group.

The week before Christmas, a well-placed WCW source told MATWATCH: "He

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After Inside Edition Friday

GRAHAM, SHULTS GET THREATS AFTER CHARGES

For five minutes and 48 seconds last Friday, Hulk Hogan was sent an unmistakable two-word message: come clean. And the nationally-televised sermonette came from two former World Wrestling Federation colleagues, who now say they've been threatened.

Former WWF heavyweight champion Superstar Billy Graham and the one-time bad boy of Titan Sports, David Shults, both called on Hogan to admit his use of steroids during an investigative story on the syndicated tabloid series *INSIDE EDITION*.



Steve

Beverly

Hogan and the WWF both refused requests for interviews for the story. Graham told reporter Tony Cox, while watching a tape of Hogan's summer appearance on *THE ARSENIO HALL SHOW* (in which Hogan denied being a steroid user or abuser): "I, myself, personally have

injected Hulk Hogan with anabolic steroids." On Hogan, Shults added: "I brought him into my home. I let him sleep in my house. I gave him food and in return, he give me steroids. He showed me how to use steroids."

IE showed a copy of Federal Express records which indicated delivery of steroid packages to Terry Bollea (Hogan's real name) and wife Linda. But Sunday night on John Arezzi's *PRO WRESTLING SPOTLIGHT* on WEVD in New York, Graham and Shults both said they'd received threats after the *IE* report. "A lot of my friends in wrestling, such as Big John Studd, Jesse Ventura and Terry Funk have expressed concerns about the safety of my health," said Graham. The ex-champion charged a federal attorney has offered to wiretap his phone in connection with an alleged FBI investigation into WWF owner Vince McMahon Jr. (the WWF could not be reached prior to deadline for a response). "If anything happens to me or my family," said Graham, "I want an FBI investigation to start with Vince McMahon and the WWF."

Shults said he has received six anonymous threatening phone calls since the *IE* piece. "They're using that voice distortion equipment," Shults told Arezzi. "But I can assure you, Billy and I can document everything we say."

Shults painted a picture of learning of Hogan's steroid use when they worked the old Tennessee circuit in Knoxville. Later, he said his daughter found bottles of testosterone and other steroid-related drugs in Hogan's

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**THIS
WEEK'S
HEADLINES**

Zahorian Gets Three Years

HARRISBURG PA---Convicted illegal steroid distributor Dr. George T. Zahorian II has been sentenced by a federal judge to three years in prison.

Zahorian was convicted last summer on 12 of 16 counts of illegal sale of anabolic steroids, including four to active wrestlers.

The doctor faced a maximum of 44 years in jail and the state of Pennsylvania has repossessed his office and its contents.

Starrcade Buy-Rate Runs Close to Norm

ATLANTA----A spot check of leading payable distributors places the preliminary buy-rate for WCW's *STARRCADE* at 1.2 per cent, though final figures will not be available for 60 days.

In a universe of 16.8 million homes, if the figure holds, the Dec. 29 spectacular was purchased in 202,000 homes, with an estimated \$4 million gross.

The preliminary estimate falls in the average for WCW pay-cable shows in 1991.

Dangerously Deals With Pneumonia

ATLANTA----Paul (E. Dangerously) Heyman has been recovering from a bout with pneumonia.

Dangerously, already fighting the flu, suffered imploded sinuses during a flight New Year's week. He made most of his WCW road dates until his condition worsened before the Jan. 1 Omni card.

Physicians say Dangerously should be able to return to full action this week.

CATALOGUE

Next week, the finale to our MATWATCH CATALOGUE and an offer of selected back issues of MATWATCH.

STEVE BEVERLY

(Continued from Page 1)

bedroom. "She'd ask her mother what those were. She was old enough to read and she was worried about Terry (Hogan). *Her mother said it was just vitamins.*"

Graham documented three specific occasions in which he claims to have injected Hogan with steroids, all in 1987, at the Pontiac Silverdome, the Kiel Auditorium in St. Louis and at the Cow Palace in San Francisco. "I remember on many occasions we would joke about his ignorance in using steroids," said Graham. "He told me the first year, he took a shot every day until he learned how to cycle them. He developed scar tissue as large as a tennis ball."

Shults said he injected Hogan much more. "I guess it would run into the hundreds of times," he told Arezzi, "not just three or four, like Billy. I have documented and notarized statements from other wrestlers to back this up."

In addition, Shults called the WWF "a walking drug store," saying one of the prime places to "reup your supply" was in Allentown PA. "I once got 50 bottles of testosterone in one night at the WWF dressing room from a doctor that was a very close friend of Terry Bollea." Shults continued: "You've got just a tip of an iceberg here. You haven't mentioned cocaine, marijuana, heroin, crack cocaine. It's all in professional wrestling."

Graham, as on *IE*, called for Hogan and McMahon to publicly apologize for what *he called lies*. "For him (Hogan) to go on television and blatantly lie about using steroids for nothing more than a bicep tear is a travesty for the entire American public, particularly the children who look up to him. This man and Vince McMahon must get in front of a television audience and publicly apologize for all of this."

Reportedly, attorneys for Hogan attempted to have the *IE* report stopped less than a half-hour before *IE*'s 11:30 a.m. satellite feed time Friday.

Titan spokesman Steve Planamenta told MATWATCH three weeks ago the company had not made a decision on a response, saying he had attempted to get *INSIDE EDITION* producers to call physicians administering the steroid tests. "Billy Graham has been saying the same thing for two years," Planamenta said at the time.

Luger Gives Notice to WCW

(Continued from Page 1)

(Luger) doesn't really even like the business. He's openly expressed how unhappy he was (Ric) Flair didn't do the favor (lose the belt) for him before he left, after Luger lost to him all those times around the horn."

The source continued: "Frankly, I wouldn't be surprised to see him get out of wrestling altogether for a while. He's invested well. His gyms are making money and he and Sting want to buy some more."

Luger, entering his seventh year as a pro, won the Southern title of the old Florida promotion 18 days into his career. He joined Jim Crockett Promotions in 1987 and held the U.S. title four times before defeating Windham to win the world belt at last summer's Great American Bash in Baltimore.

FINAL MATWATCH RATES

If your mailing label says FINAL ISSUE, the cost to subscribe through the closing issue of MATWATCH Jan. 27 is \$3.75 (U.S./Canada), \$7.00 (Overseas).

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IDIOTS

Dec. 29-Jan. 5

(PORTLAND) - [12/14]: {NEWS}

Steve Doll/Grappler d. Bruise Brothers to win PNW tag title; Buddy Rose d. C.W. Bergstrom, raises ref Sandy Barr's hand & shakes it; (ANGLE) Rose wishes all Merry Christmas, challenges Crush to double title match, offers him gift. Crush shakes gift & Buddy throws powder in his eye. Grappler/Jesse Barr/Doll save; (\$5,000 BOUNTY MATCH) Grappler d. Al Madril by DQ when Al uses loaded mask, then Al headbutts Sandy. Jesse saves but Al ambushes Jesse until Grap revives & loads boot, chasing Madril; (ANGLE) Grap/Doll attacked by Bruises, who steal belts; (FIESTA GARDEN) Madril says he doesn't believe in Santa Claus (see LINES OF). Jesse chases Al w. cowbell; Doll d. Dirty White Boy by DQ when Bruises ambush Steve. Grap saves w. chair; (ANGLE) Doll/Grap get revenge on Bruises, who insult NW women; Brickhouse Brown d. Mike Miller by DQ when Miller swings 2x4. Brick ducks, dropkicks Miller out. Miller yells slur at Brick. DRAW.

[12/21]: {GUEST} Roddy Piper appears to give testimonial to Don Owen (see LINES OF THE WEEK).

[12/28]: Mike Winner d. Madril on reversal when Al won't let ref check loaded mask; (6-MAN) Grappler/Doll/Crush d. Bruises/Rose by DQ when heels use chair on Crush; Brown d. Miller by DQ when Rose knocks Brick off top w. 2x4 & Rose puts chauffeur's cap on Brick's head. Miller whips Brick w. belt until Doll saves w. chair; Jesse Barr d. Bergstrom; Ron Harris d. John Rambo. RESTHOLD-PLUS. Last show of the series.

(USWA/WMC) - Bart Sawyer d. Shadow; (SEG) Brian Christopher says he won't team w. Tony Williams as the New Kids. Eddie Martin tells him he's acting like spoiled kid; Doug Masters/Tony Falk d. New Kids when Masters ducks & Brian clotheslines Tony. Kids argue after & Martin orders them to have a boxing match Monday night; (MID-SOUTH COL.) USWA TAG TITLE) Moondogs d. Jeff Jarrett/Robert Fuller when Jeff clobbered by Spike's bone; Jarrett/Fuller d. Jeff Gaylord/Sandman by DQ when Moondogs run in & wild brawl erupts & Jarrett/Fuller grab chairs, clean house, bust open 'Dogs & steal Spike's bone; (MSC) Jerry Lawler wins tourney to get USWA title shot at Kimala; (MSC) Tom Prichard/Ms. Texas d. Tony Falk/C.J.; Koko B. Ware/Candyman d. Scorpion/Shadow. DRAW.

(SOUTH ATLANTIC) - Tommy Angel d. Grappler; Roughhouse Graham d. Knox; Rick Slagle d. Mike Starr; Vince Turelli d. Jeff Husker; Wahoo McDaniel/The Patriot (Del Wilkes) d. Jeff Collette/Helmut Hessler. RESTHOLD-PLUS.

(GLOBAL/SYN) - [MAJOR LEAGUE/Yearend II]: Patriot returns N.A. title; (N.A. TITLE) Patriot d. Al Perez when Eddie Gilbert's interference goes awry; Terry Gordy d. Cactus Jack by countout; (REPLAY) Saga of "The Boss;" Sam Houston d. Bull Pain; (NOTHING BUT DeTRUTH) Steve Prazak on Patriot, Gilbert; (NEWSROOM) Joe Pedicino reviews 1991; Chaz d. Lightning Kid; (WHATEVER HAPPENED TO?) Joe Pedicino says Cactus had bigger-money offer to go to work for WCW and "who can blame him?;" (SEG) Scott Hudson says he'll either stay as Global color man or neutralize DeTruth. DRAW.

(GLOBAL/ESPN) - [Mon.]: Steve Simpson d. John Tatum when Rod Price slips up & decks Tatum w. blackjack; Jerry Lynn d. Bodysnatcher when 'Snatcher decks 2 refs; Simpson d. Sweet Daddy Falcone; Sam Houston d. Bull Pain when Baby Doll neutralizes Samantha; (GWF TV TITLE) Eddie Gilbert d. Gary Young by choking him w. belt. DRAW.

[Tue./Yearend I]: 1) TV tourney finals recap, won by Patriot; 2) [LT. HWT. FINALS] Lightning Kid d. Lynn to win title; 3) [TAG TEAM FINALS] Simpson/Chris Walker d. Rip Rogers/Scott

Anthony to win belts; [NORTH AM FINALS] Patriot d. Al Perez to win belt; (GWF TV TITLE) Gilbert d. Handsome Stranger by DQ to win playoff when

Stranger caught w. Anthony's knucks. POWERSLAM.

[Thu.] {CAGE} Tug Taylor/Terry Garvin d. Davis Bros. but Lightning Kid puts Chaz to sleep outside; (SEG) Dark Patriot (Doug Gilbert); Dark Patriot d. Ben Jordan; Simpson d. Falcone; Chaz/Taylor d. Dogs of War; (GWF TV TITLE) Gilbert d. Young by choking him w. belt; Bill Irwin double countout vs. Bodysnatcher. RESTHOLD-PLUS. [Fri./Eddie Tripleheader]: Gilbert vs. Garvin no contest when ref bumped. The 2 brawl to pull apart, then down the aisle; Patriot d. Tatum; Renegade Warriors d. Davis Bros.; (NEWSROOM) Pedicino reviews 1991; Gilbert d. Reno Riggins; (6-MAN) Renegades/Jeff Gaylord no contest vs. Tatum/Maulers; (GLOBAL TV TITLE) Gilbert d. Houston to keep belt when Eddie chloroforms Sam. DRAW-PLUS...for Eddie's three.

(WWF/SYN) - [CHALLENGE]: Bret Hart d. Barry Horowitz; (SPECIAL REPORT) Legion of Doom d. Rockers when Sean Michaels dropkicks Animal on top of Marty Jannetty. Rockers shove each other & Marty walks away plus L.O.D.-Natural Disasters WWF tag title match announced for ROYAL RUMBLE; Warlord d. Larry Sampson; Big Bossman d. Jesse Hernandez; (FEATURE) Ted DiBiase visits Tito Santana's "boyhood home;" Disasters d. Brian Donahue/Robert Taylor; Repo Man d. Sonny Blaze; (BARBER SHOP) Brutus Beefcake w. Sid Justice; (ROYAL RUMBLE REPORT) Clips of last year's Rumble. RESTHOLD.

[SUPERSTARS]: Roddy Piper d. Brooklyn Brawler; (UPDATE) L.O.D. d. Rockers & Rockers split; Davey Boy Smith d. Louie Spiccoli; (REPLAY) Jake Roberts slaps Liz Poffo. Mean Gene w. Randy Savage/Liz; Beverly Bros. d. Scott Baizo/Ken Johnson; (SEG) Chris Chavis; (R.R. REPORT) Rundown of entire card; Other winner: Mountie. RESTHOLD.

(WWF/USA) - [PRIME TIME]: Savage d. Barbarian; I.R. Schyster d. Baizo; (UPDATE) Okerlund w. entire Royal Rumble lineup; Santana d. Kato; (WWF TAG TITLE) L.O.D. d. Rockers & Sean/Marty split; (6-MAN) Beverly Bros. d. Donahue/Blaze/Larry Ludden; (R.R. REPORT) Clips of '91 Rumble; Kerry Von Erich double countout vs. Hercules Hernandez; (FUNERAL PARLOR) Piper shuts Percy up in coffin; Rick Martel d. Dale Wolfe; (I-C TITLE) Hart d. Skinner Keirn to retain belt; (SEG) Chavis; Repo Man d. Sampson; Smith d. Spiccoli. RESTHOLD-PLUS.

(LPWA) - [YEAREND SPECIAL/LPWA DEBUT]: Jan Flame d. The Goddess; Nasty Girls d. Locomotion; Sheba d. Madusa Micell when Adnan al-Kalssie interferes; [LPWA TITLE] Susan Sexton d. Misty Blue Simmes. NO RATING.

(PWTW) - [GA. CLASSIC/1989] Terry Gordy d. Tommy Rich; (GWF) 1. Renegades d. Buster Blackheart/Tony George. 2. Gaylord d. Tony Stetson; (SOUTH ATLANTIC) Ivan Koloff d. Tyrone Cox; (LPWA) Terri Power d. Candi Divine; (INTL/WWC) Kendo Nagasaki d. Tony Leet. RESTHOLD-PLUS.

(WCW/SYN) - [WCW PRO]: Steiner Bros. d. Jack Savage/Don Michaels; Patriots d. Jim Boss/Greg Sawyer; Ron Simmons d. The Medici; (WNN) Gordon Solie on Patriots-Young Pistols feud & Hughes-Vader team; Marcus A. Bagwell d. John Peterson; (ANGLE) Paul E. Dangerously offers Bagwell shot at Steve Austin's TV title. Mark says he's not ready. Paul raps on Mark's head, saying opportunity knocks. Bagwell decks Paul but Dangerous Alliance ambushes Mark until Sting saves &

SCALE: PINFALL! - Must See. PILEDRIVER - Excellent. POWERSLAM - Good. DRAW - Average. RESTHOLD - Fair. BOMB - Poor. PLUS - Midscale rating.

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decks whole Alliance until Rick Rude attacks Sting, handcuffs him to rail & pounds him w. plaster cast; Arachnabrad d. Curtis Hughes by DQ when Cactus Jack attacks Brad outside. The 3 brawl into upper deck when Van Hammer makes it a 4-way. Cactus takes bump down 60 stairs. DRAW-PLUS.

[WORLD WIDE]: Johnny B. Badd d. Chris Sullivan; (WWW) Bagwell d. Peterson and Bagwell-Sting-Alliance angle; Steiners d. Chuck Coates/Zan Panzer; (WNN) Same as PRO; Cactus/Hughes d. Patriots; (WCW TV TITLE) Simmons d. Steve Austin when Eaton comes off top but Steamboat saves. Entire Alliance, Barry Windham/Rhodes get into 8-way brawl. RESTHOLD-PLUS.

(WCW/TBS) - [POWER HOUR]: Ricky Steamboat/Dustin Rhodes d. Sawyer/Sgt. B.L. Parker; Vader d. Larry Coley; Rick Steiner d. Sonny Trout; Sting d. Hughes; Rude d. Larry Santo; (MISSY DOES MAIL) Sting-Alliance angle; Arn Anderson/Bobby Eaton d. P.N. News/Tom Zenk. RESTHOLD-PLUS.

[WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP]: {REPLAY} Sting-Alliance angle; Rude d. Sawyer; (WCW MAGAZINE/WCW LT. HWT. TITLE) Jushin Liger d. Brian Pillman to win belt; Larry Zbyszko d. Santo; Terrence Taylor d. Terry Bronson but after, Terrence smashes computer, abandons York Foundation, leaving Alexandra speechless; (HANDICAP) Hughes d. Dave Diamond/Savage; Hammer d. Paul Lee but Cactus ambushes Van & DDTs him on exit ramp; Rhodes vs. Anderson in progress as show ends. RESTHOLD-PLUS.

[MAIN EVENT]: Rhodes d. Anderson by DQ when Eaton/Austin throw Steamboat out & triple w. Arn on Dustin. Windham/Simmons and Zbyszko enter for 8-way brawl; Eaton/Austin d. Big Josh/Hammer; (WCW MAGAZINE/WCW LT. HWT. TITLE) Same as WCW; Cactus d. Arachnabrad; (ROSS REPORT) Jim w. Steamboat; Bagwell d. Coates. DRAW.

(IWCCW) - All repeat show. NO RATING.

LINES OF THE WEEK

1. Superstar Billy Graham, INSIDE EDITION: "I, myself, personally have injected Hulk Hogan with anabolic steroids." 2. David Shults, IE: "I got news for you. You take your vitamins and you say your prayers but you're never gonna grow up to be 300 pounds with 24-inch arms unless you take steroids." 3. Shults, IE, to Hogan: "Quit lyin' to them. Tell 'em the truth and be man enough to tell 'em the truth. Say, 'Hey, I did steroids and I've done 'em for years and years.'" 4. Roddy Piper, PORTLAND, on 35 years of Portland Wrestling: "Don Coss, you were only 45 or 50 years old when it started." 5. Eddie Gilbert, ESPN, to Craig Johnson: "I'm real happy to see Joseph Cicciolo, Alan Stein and Terry Anderson released as hostages in Lebanon...now, I'd be even happier if they'd take Joe Pedicino, Boni Blackstone and you hostage now." 6. Jim Ross, STARRCADE: "Little Jushin Thunder Liger is like a bumper car. He hits and runs." 7. Tony Schiavone, STARRCADE, on Sgt. B.L. Parker stumbling toward ring: "Looks like someone crawling in the desert for a drink of water." 8. Ross, STARRCADE: "Hammer's not known for wrestling a lot of marathons." 9. Al Madril, PORT: "When I sat on Santa's lap when I was little, his suit came off and he was wearing a bra underneath." 10. Crush, PORT: "Buddy Rose will never wear my belt because it would never fit."

11. Steven DeTruth, PWTW, on Van Vader/Curtis Hughes team: "Lotta yardage there and dressed for success. No, they're not dressed. They're upholstered!" 12. DeTruth, PWTW: "Shinya Hashimoto, one of the wildest, most violent Japanese wrestlers, faces Bill Kazmaier, one of the mildest, most passive American wrestlers. 13. DeTruth, PWTW: "I

guess Terrence Taylor will now go back to being the Red Roos...uh, let's make that Terry Taylor." 14. DeTruth/Scott Hudson, PWTW: (SD) "And the best thing about the GWF is they hired me." (SH) "They also introduced new Coke." 15. Gilbert, ESPN: "Tricky Dick Nixon influenced my career. I had to learn how to lie somewhere." 16. Johnson/Gilbert, ESPN: (CJ) "Beautiful escape!" (EG) "Yeah, reminded me of the time James Earl Ray escaped from prison. Always getting caught, though." 17. Hudson/Scott Anthony, ESPN: (SA) "A clever, clever observation." (SH) "That's a big word for you." (SA) "What? Six letters?" 18. Anthony, ESPN, on Gilbert chloroforming Houston: "He's invented a new face claw." 19. Curt Hennig, SOW, on Jamieson eating hot dog: "It's a Bush-whacker diet." 20. Eddie Marlin, WMC: "You may not think it but at one time, I was young." 21. Dan Fouts/Verne Lundquist, CBS, on Falcons-Redskins: (DF) "This is a real grudge match." (VL) "Yeah, Jesse Ventura ought to be here."

STRONGEST COMMENTS - 1. Piper, PORT: "Even wrestlers who took advantage of Don Owen, went behind his back and stabbed him, lost everything they had, came crawling back and Don still gave them a second chance." 2. Piper, PORT: "When it comes to Roddy Piper, if it wasn't for Portland wrestling, I don't know where I'd be. It gave me an opportunity to have a family and a life." 3. Piper, PORT: "A lot of wrestlers were down on their luck and Don (Owen) lent them money to feed their families. A lot of them never repaid it but you hardly heard him gripe at all...hardly. Well, a little bit." 4. Graham, IE, on Hogan: "I want him to come clean. He owes it to his fans. He owes it to the children of this country." 5. Ross, STARRCADE: "The Nightstalker is no Scott Steiner." 6. DeTruth, PWTW, on Dusty's TokyoDome match: "Wait till the Japanese get a load of Dusty. They'll woof their cookies."

QUESTIONS OF THE WEEK - 1. Bobby Heenan, PTW, to Rev. Slick: "Why don't you get the Rockers in your church in Fort Worth. Place your hands on them and say, 'Gentlemen, heal yourselves. And while you're at it, could you slip me 50 bucks?'" 2. Crush, PORT, on Madril's Santa story: "Does that have anything to do with how your hair came off?" 3. Ross, STARRCADE, on Paul E.: "Has he got a ticket stub? He looks nice in his dad's suit." 4. Hennig, SOW, on Randy/Liz & Rumble: "If he loses, does that mean she's gonna leave him?"

NICKNAMES OF THE WEEK - 1. DIVINITY CANDY (Hudson on Candi Divine). 2. CHIP & DIP (DeTruth on Patriots). 3. SENOR SLUM (DiBise on architect of Santana's home). 4. GILBERT WRESTLING FEDERATION (Eddie on GWF).

BEST PICTURES - 1. WCW PRO, Cactus rolling down 50 stairs from upper deck. 2. PORTLAND, Piper putting Santa hat on Owen. 3. STARRCADE, Liger series of moves on Morton during Battlebowl. 4. STARRCADE, Liger kicks on Graham. 5. STARRCADE, Steve Austin crashing into Paul E. in tag match. 6. STARRCADE, Cactus Jack hipbuster on Todd Champion. 7. STARRCADE, Sting fly onto Bobby Eaton. 8. STARRCADE, Eaton slapping Brian Pillman away from tag.

REPEAT NITPICKER - TBS/WCW, is it "The Clash of Champions" or "Clash of the Champions?" Why can't we get this thing uniform between the announcers and TBS?

ALL-CLICHE TEAM - Rick Rude, WCW: "...one foot in the grave and the other on a banana peel."

DREADED GLITCH AWARDS - 1. GWF, for "Dogs of WARR." 2. WME, for teasing Steamboat-Eaton match which was not shown.

(Continued on Page 6, lower left column)

Radio Revolver

PWS JOINS WEVD; KATZ MOVES, TOO

Two of radio's top wrestle talkfests are switching stations, with John Arezzi's PRO WRESTLING SPOTLIGHT moving to a 50,000-watt affiliate.

SPOTLIGHT premiered on WEVD-AM in New York City Sunday night (10 p.m. to 12 midnight EST) with Superstar Billy Graham and Dave Shults as guests, following up on their *INSIDE EDITION* appearance Friday.

THE LARRY KATZ SHOW, now in its third year in Baltimore, is returning to WCBM (AM 680) in Baltimore. Katz lost his slot on WCAO-AM after the station changed to an all-gospel format. As of deadline, Katz was set for an 8-10 p.m. (EST) slot on WCBM beginning this Sunday.

JOHN SEZ SORRY: I take my hat off to Arezzi. He took the step last week of apologizing to listeners of his PRO WRESTLING SPOTLIGHT. It stems from exceedingly personal remarks made by Missy Hyatt and Jason Hervey on the PWS Christmas show, all directed at Eddie Gilbert---and, to a lesser degree, Madusa Miceli. In a tough slot, John has tried to maintain a family show and it takes a lot of courage to be honest with the viewers. John will tell you he had no idea what was coming that day.

SPECIAL GUEST STARS?: Hyatt and Hervey showed for at the Global taping Friday night in Dallas (Gilbert was not there). Cameras panned them in the crowd, John Tatum recognized Hervey and "his old lady," and I'm told they'll be shown on all GWF shows. How will WCW feel about that?

ON A FOLLOWUP NOTE: In a letter to Joe Pedicino and, presumably, Gilbert, too, Andrew Goldberger has apologized for accusations he made about Gilbert on the Prodigy computer exchange (see MATWATCH, Dec. 23). That also takes courage and was a correct and smart move.

GRAHAM'S ROUNDS: Billy Graham was skedded to guest on Mike Tenay's nationally-syndicated on Las Vegas show Saturday night to take calls and Shults is tentatively set to join Graham with Tenay this Saturday.

THE WEEK AFTER YULE: WCW did show some increases over previous shows after Christmas: the Meadowlands drew \$46,000 (with 7,000 total in the house), Baltimore back up to 4,000 (Liger-Pillman called one of the best ever in the Arena) and \$93,000 for Norfolk. But the Omni, which had a poor card, drew one of its poorest crowds ever New Year's night with less than a \$15,000 house.

FRIDAY IN DALLAS: In a dark match, Sam Houston defeated Bull Pain as Baby Doll (Nicola Smith) and Samantha were both handcuffed to emcee Craig Johnson. Before the bout ended, Craig's shirt had been ripped off.

STILL AHEAD: Upcoming on Global, the Dark Patriot (Doug Gilbert) squirts ink in the eye of The Patriot (Del Wilkes). This will start a storyline where the Patriot's career will be "in jeopardy." A \$10,000 bounty will be on him which will point to Eddie Gilbert as the one posting it but

In Tokyo Dome

STING, MUTA STEAL SUPERSHOW

TOKYO----Sting and Keiji Mutoh (The Great Muta) teamed to pin Rick and Scott Steiner in the highlight match of the WCW/New Japan Supershow here Saturday night.

A legit crowd of 60,000 saw Sting pin Scott to win the bout, which some observers say topped the Steiners vs. Hiroshi Hase/Kensuke Sasaki match at last year's Supershow.

Lex Luger defeated Masa Chono with a low-blow finish to retain the WCW world heavyweight title. In other bouts, Riki Choshu d. Tatsumi Fujinami, Antonio Inoki d. Hase, Big Van Vader went to a double countout with El Gigante (said to be a weak affair), Shinya Hashimoto d. Bill Kazmaier, Tony Holme d. Scott Norton and Dusty & Dustin Rhodes d. Masa Saito/Kim Duc.

the bounty will also be on Eddie, who will join forces with The Patriot to find the culprit.

A MUST SEE: I'm told the Jerry Lynn-Lightning Kid GWF light heavy title match is as close to a PINFALL as you'll see on TV this year. It airs Saturday on MAJOR LEAGUE but you'll see more of it on ESPN next Tuesday.

CHANGES IN ATLANTA: For viewers of WVEU's SATURDAY NIGHT SUPERSTARS with Boni Blackstone and Samuel F. Kent, WWF SUPERSTARS moves back from Channel 5 this Saturday. The new lineup: 8:00 WWF SUPERSTARS, 9:00 WWF CHALLENGE, 10:00 GLOBAL MAJOR LEAGUE, 11:00 PRO WRESTLING THIS WEEK, 12:00 LPWA, 1:00 USWA, 2:00 IWCCW/SOUTH ATLANTIC.

ANOTHER SHIFT: LPWA's Dec. 28 taping in Panama City FL canceled. It's now rescheduled for Jan. 27 in Raleigh. Syndie shows will go back into "best of" formats, presumably building to the booked Feb. 23 pay-per-view from Dallas.

CHANGING COMPANIES: WCW leaves Audio Communications, Inc., for its WRESTLING HOTLINE 900 service in early February. The new service will be interactive.

MONDAY IN MEMPHIS: Jerry Lawler should have regained the USWA belt for the tenth time by the time you read this. He met Kimala at the Mid-South Coliseum in a title bout with a "no return" clause.

ALSO MONDAY: Jeff Jarrett and Robert Fuller met the Moondogs for another stab at the USWA tag belts after a brutal chair-wielding brawl on WMC-TV Saturday.

THE UNDERCARD: Eric Embry & C.J. vs. Tom Prichard & Miss Texas; Bart Sawyer vs. Doug Masters (Indian strap); Sandman vs. Tony Anthony; Candyman vs. Jeff Gaylord; Koko B. Ware vs. Tony Falk. Winners of the latter three had a battle royal to get a shot at the USWA belt next Monday.

THE FALLOUT: A sidebar angle Saturday had New Kid Brian Christopher upset with partner Tony Williams because the team regularly loses. Eddie Marlin finally settled it by ordering them to have a boxing match with no ref or rounds.

LATE NOTE: Jack Petrik says WCW has reached agreement on a new contract with Sting "for several years."

MATWATCH

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By *A Hair*

RATINGS RAP

WCW MAKES IT 14 FOR 16 ON CHARTS

Nudging out of a virtual time with WWF PRIME TIME WRESTLING, TBS' WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP WRESTLING scored another victory--the 14th in 16 weeks for TBS shows--in the Nielsen cable race for the week ending Dec. 23.

Both WCW and PTW scored 2.7 ratings but WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP nosed out the Monday night USA offering, 1.57 million to 1.55 million homes.

WCW's 2.7 produced a 5.4 per cent share of audience, while PTW scored a 4.4% share.

WWF ALL-AMERICAN was close on the heels with a 2.6/6.7 Dec. 22 while WCW MAIN EVENT was well down the list, opposite the final week of the NFL season, with a 2.2/4.1.

However, TBS' WCW POWER HOUR posted a strong 2.0/7.8, its fifth time at a 2 or better during the fourth quarter.

(ED. NOTE: New Year's week ratings were delayed because of the holiday period. Next week: a report on the final fourth quarter ratings averages).

CABLE

Week Ending Dec. 23	Rating/Share	Total Homes	Year Ago
WCW World Champ. (TBS 12/21)	2.7/5.4	1.57 million	3.4/6.5
WWF Prime Time (USA 12/23)	2.7/4.4	1.55 million	1.5/2.7
WWF All-American (USA 12/22)	2.6/6.7	1.49 million	2.3/6.6
WCW Main Event (USA 12/22)	2.2/4.1	1.27 million	2.5/4.7
WCW Power Hour (TBS 12/21)	2.0/7.8	1.15 million	1.6/6.5

1991 Annual

MATWATCH: THE FINAL CHAPTER

A real joy in our annuals is naming the MATWATCH MAN OF THE YEAR, a selection for one whose contribution to wrestling in the previous year has been exponential. You'll find our 1991 choice in MATWATCH: THE FINAL CHAPTER, to be published Feb. 28. In addition, you'll see our annual Wrestling Broadcasting System schedule, the top 15 TV mat news stories of the year and a 65-page retrospective of life with MATWATCH for four years.

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IDIOTS (From Page 4)

BOO AWARDS - 1. Mike Miller, PORT, for racial slur at Brickhouse Brown: "Last time I saw you Madril, you were shining shoes on the streets of New Orleans." 2. Madril, PORT, for telling children there's no Santa Claus. Yeah, and how will Al react the next time someone tells him wrestling's outcomes are not legit?

MATWATCH Review

STARRCADE: THE TV SHOW

I well remember the cold December night in 1989 when Dick Bourne, Mike Gunter and I walked out of the Omni from the STARRCADE Ironman/Ironteam tournament.

"It had its moments," said Gunter. "But it just didn't seem like STARRCADE." So could the same be said, from a TV viewer's perspective, for BATTLEBOWL: LETHAL LOTTERY.

This show was probably tougher on the announcers and production crew than any WCW pay effort to date. First, the commentators cannot get match-specific in building the show or future bouts without spoiling the "blind draw" gimmick.

Second, the ten-match preliminary was simply too long and repetitive. After a couple of oddball pairings, the twist of heel-babyface combinations lost its zip.

In addition, covering a two-ring battle royal needs at least eight cameras to be effective--and even still, it becomes difficult to follow action cohesively. The event can be an extraordinary sight in a live arena but on television, Jim Ross and Tony Schiavone were often reduced to radio play-by-play of eliminations, simply because the congested double-ring format made it too tough for the cameras to follow them all.

On the plus side, the dressing room reaction shots during the draw announcements was a good innovation and the camera work, brutal as it was, of Abdullah the Butcher's attack on Sgt. Buddy Lee Parker was solid. Plus, once the eliminations were down to the last five men, the direction rallied and the angles captured of the Sting-Luger finale were dramatic. With the exception of only a couple of matches, the crowd enthusiasm was high for most of the show which--again--heightens viewer interest.

However, the view from here is a repeat of the international tag tourney from the previous year would have been more in order and a Liger-Fillman matchup for the pay audience would have broken the monotony of a succession of tag bouts for a group which really isn't 40-deep. There were a few high moments but turning STARRCADE into a "theme" format dilutes its tradition as the flagship show of former NWA supercards, something WCW fans value. With Turner considering returning STARRCADE to the Omni as a permanent home base next year, let's hope that tradition is a top consideration.

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